

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Inventor: Ball, et al.

Serial No: 09/530,342

Filing Date: 4/27/2000

Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD
FOR DRAWING WAVEGUIDE
FIBERS

Group Art Unit: 1731

Examiner: John M. Hoffmann

RESPONSE

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Commissioner for Patents
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450RECEIVED
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GROUP 1700**RESPONSE TO THE EXAMINER'S FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

In reply to the Final Office Action dated March 3, 2003, designated as Paper No. 15 in the above-captioned application, please consider the Remarks as follows.

Remarks

In view of the following remarks, favorable reconsideration of the outstanding office action is respectfully requested. Claims 6-8 and 10-14 remain in this application. Claims 1-5 have previously been withdrawn from consideration, without prejudice. Claim 9 has been previously canceled. A clean set of claims, as currently pending, are attached herewith labeled as "clean claims."

1. § 103 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 6-8 and 10-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable for obviousness over European Patent No. EP 464 613 (Ohga) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,032,079 (Tsuchiya).

The Examiner asserts that Ohga discloses the invention at Col. 5, line 19 and Fig. 1 and that Ohga does not disclose the purity of the material nor the stacked segments. Examiner argues that it would have been obvious to use silicon carbide that is as pure as technologically possible and that Tsuchiya teaches joining a plurality of tubes.